

Application/Control Number: 09/972,929
Art Unit: 2655

Docket No.: 2000-0499

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are requested. Claims 1, 5, 9 and 14 are amended to clarify the invention and not to introduce new limitations to overcome the prior art. New claims 15 - 20 depend from parent .

Rejection of Claims 1 - 14 Under Section 102

The examiner rejects claims 1 through 14 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102 as being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,418,411 to Gong ("Gong"). Applicant traverses this rejection and submits that the claims are allowable because the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest each limitation recited in the claims.

The Examiner rejects claim 1 and asserts that the limitation of determining parameters of a background model of a received voice request is taught by the noise compensation taught by Gong. Specifically, the examiner cites elements 19 and 20 in FIG. 1 and column 2, lines 35 to 47 to state that Gong teaches determining background noise parameters. Applicant has provided a minor amendment to claim 1 to clarify the invention. The step of determining parameters of a background model occurs during reception of the voice request. The received voice request may be any voice input. As we shall see below, Gong fails to teach or suggest this limitation wherein he focuses on recording background noise for compensation before receiving voice input.

Gong teaches a specific method in which the user depresses a push-to-talk button which begins a delay period. During the delay period (for example, 0.3 seconds), background noise is recorded and estimated to determine the acoustic environment. The Gong "beep" is an indication to the user that the delay period has ended and the system is now ready to receive voice input for recognition. Column 2, lines 50 through 61 outlines the procedure. The system waits for a key press and records the background noise after the keypress. The system then performs the on-line model combination in which noise statistics and the target HMMS produce the noisy HMM until all vectors are compensated. Then the recognition-

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start beep signal is sent and the system recognizes the input speech until the end of the signal is detected and the recognize text is displayed.

It is clear from the teachings of Gong that there is a specific time in which the background noise is recorded before speech recognition can begin. The background recordation time-frame is clearly set before speech recognition occurs. There is no other teaching within the reference regarding recording of background noise for noise estimation and any other time frame during speech recognition.

In contrast to the teachings in part, claim 1 recites determine parameters of a background models during a received voice request. A discussion of this feature may be found in paragraph 28 of the present specification. This feature is not taught nor is it suggested by Gong, who clearly teaches that it is important to separate recording background noise to receive background noise statistics from the time in which input speech is received. Claim 1 recites a different approach from Gong's approach. Claim 1 requires determining parameters for the background model during a received voice request. For this reason, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable and in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, because claim 1 recites determining parameters during a received voice request, the claim is able to dynamically reconfigured speech recognition as is recited in the preamble. Such a dynamic reconfiguration for speech recognition would be impossible under Gong because the background noise is recorded only once prior to the commencement of speech input. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that there are two reasons why the invention of claim 1 is not taught or suggested by Gong. First, Gong does not teach or suggested determining the parameters of background model during a received voice request and second, Gong does not teach nor suggest a method of dynamically reconfiguring speech recognition. For these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable and in condition for allowance.

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The above arguments also apply to claims 5, 9 and 13. Each of these claims includes the same or a similar limitation to that discussed above in a different embodiment. Therefore, Applicant submits that for the same reasons set forth above for claim 1, that claims 5, 9 and 13 are allowable over the prior reference and in condition for allowance.

Claims 2 - 4, 6 - 8 and claims 10 - 12 depend from claims 1, 5 and 9 respectively. Applicant submits that because the parent claims are allowable, the dependent claims are allowable as well.

Claim 14 recites a method of dynamic reconfigure will speech recognition comprising the steps of determining user specific parameters of the background model during a received voice request. The Examiner sites again col. 2, lines 35 to 47 as matching this limitation of claim 14. However, the Examiner does not identify where in Gong the parameters of the background model are user specific. In columns 2 lines 35 to 47, as discussed above, Gong focuses on establishing the delay period before the talking begins utilizing the push-to-talk button in which the background noise samples are taken. There is no suggestion or teaching that those background model parameters are user specific. Therefore for this reason, Applicant respectfully submits the claim 14 is allowable over the prior reference.

Furthermore, the second limitation of claim 14 requires determining user specific parameters of a transducer model. The Examiner cites Figure 1 and column 2, lines 59-62 as teaching this limitation. However, the Examiner fails to point out how the prior art teaches determining the user specific parameters. This particular user specific limitation is not found in the Examiner's analysis and Gong simply fails to teach the user specific limitation. Therefore, for this additional reason, Applicant submits the claim 14 is allowable over the prior art.

New Claims 15 - 20

Each of these new claims depends from an allowable parent claim and therefore, Applicant submits that these claims are in condition for allowance as well.

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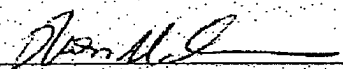
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CONCLUSION

Having addressed the rejection of claims 1 - 14 and introduced new claims 15 - 20, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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